

Stollen Moments – Chayei Sarah – November 23, 2024

PARASHA SUMMARY FROM WWW. REFORMJUDAISM.ORG

- Abraham purchases the cave of Machpelah in order to bury his wife Sarah. (23:1-20)
- Abraham sends his servant to find a bride for Isaac. (24:1-9)
- Rebekah shows her kindness by offering to draw water for the servant's camels at the well. (24:15-20)
- The servant meets Rebekah's family and then takes Rebekah to Isaac, who marries her. (24:23-67)
- Abraham takes another wife, named Keturah. At the age of one hundred and seventy-five years, Abraham dies, and Isaac and Ishmael bury him in the cave of Machpelah. (25:1-11)

Genesis 24

וַאֲבָרָהָם זָקֵן בָּא בַּיָּמִים וַיְהִי בֵרְךְ אֶת־אֲבָרָהָם בְּכָל־
בְּכָל־אֲשֶׁר־לּוֹ שָׁיִם־גָּא יָדָה תַּחַת יָרְכִי: וְאֲשַׁבְּעֶנּוּ בְּיְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֱלֹהֵי הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר לֹא־תִקַּח
אִשָּׁה לְבָנִי מִבְּנוֹת הַכְּנַעֲנִי אֲשֶׁר אֲנֹכִי יוֹשֵׁב בְּקִרְבּוֹ: כִּי אֶל־אֲרָצִי וְאֶל־מוֹלַדְתִּי תֵלֵךְ וְלִקְחַתְּ אִשָּׁה
לְבָנִי לְיִצְחָק: וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו הֶעֱבַד אוֹלִי לֹא־תֵאבְדָה הָאִשָּׁה לְלֶכֶת אַחֲרַי אֶל־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת הַנֹּשֵׁב אֲשִׁיב
אֶת־בְּנִי אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־יֵצְאָתָּ מִשָּׁם: וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲבָרָהָם הַשְּׁמֵר לְךָ פֶּן־תָּשִׁיב אֶת־בְּנִי שָׁמָּה:
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם אֲשֶׁר לְקַחְנִי מִבֵּית אָבִי וּמֵאָרֶץ מוֹלַדְתִּי וְאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר־לִי וְאֲשֶׁר גִּשְׁבַּע־לִי לֵאמֹר
לְזַרְעֶךָ אֲתֵן אֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת הוּא יִשְׁלַח מִלְּאָכּוֹ לִפְנֵיךָ וְלִקְחַתְּ אִשָּׁה לְבָנִי מִשָּׁם: וְאִם־לֹא תֵאבְדָה
הָאִשָּׁה לְלֶכֶת אַחֲרַי וְנִלְקִיתָ מִשְׁבַּעְתִּי זֹאת בַּק אֶת־בְּנִי לֹא תָשִׁיב שָׁמָּה: וַיִּשָּׂם הֶעֱבַד אֶת־יָדוֹ תַּחַת
יָרְךְ אֲבָרָהָם אֲדֹנָיו וַיִּשְׁבַּע לוֹ עַל־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה: וַיִּקַּח הֶעֱבַד עֲשָׂרָה גַמְלִים מִגְּמְלֵי אֲדֹנָיו וַיֵּלֶךְ וְכָל־
טוֹב אֲדֹנָיו בָּיָדוֹ וַיֵּקֶם וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל־אָרָם בְּהַרִים אֶל־עֵיר נַחֲוֹר:

1 Abraham was now old, advanced in years, and יהוה had blessed Abraham in all things.
2 And Abraham said to the senior servant of his household, who had charge of all that he owned, “Put your hand under my thigh 3 and I will make you swear by יהוה, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites among whom I dwell, 4 but will go to the land of my birth and get a wife for my son Isaac.” 5 And the servant said to him, “What if the woman does not consent to follow me to this land, shall I then take your son back to the land from which you came?” 6 Abraham answered him, “On no account must you take my son back there! 7 יהוה, the God of heaven—who took me from my father’s house and from my native land, who promised me on oath, saying, ‘I will assign this land to your offspring’—will send a messenger before you, and you will get a wife for my son from

there. 8 And if the woman does not consent to follow you, you shall then be clear of this oath to me; but do not take my son back there.” 9 So the servant put his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham and swore to him as bidden. 10 Then the servant took ten of his master’s camels and set out, taking with him all the bounty of his master; and he made his way to Aram-naharaim, to the city of Nahor.

Questions for Discussion

- What does Abraham seek for Isaac and why?
- Who is this person that Abraham sends?

Commentaries

Ramban on 24:3

AND I WILL MAKE THEE SWEAR BY THE ETERNAL. It would have been proper for Abraham to command his son Isaac that he should not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. But since it was his wish to dispatch someone during his lifetime to his country and his family, and he made the servant swear to do so whether in his lifetime or after his death, therefore Abraham found it necessary in any case to make the servant swear to go there. In addition he found it necessary to say to him, “I command you that you should not take a woman for my son of the daughters of Canaan. Instead you are to go to my country and take for him a wife from my father’s house.” Now having required the servant to swear to this, he no longer found it necessary to command Isaac at all for he knew that he would not transgress his father’s wish or the oath which he made his servant swear, as the matter was indeed known to Isaac.

It is also possible that the servant Eliezer was the administrator of his possessions, and Abraham commanded him to marry off Isaac in accordance with his will and cause him to inherit his estate on this condition, [namely, that he marry in accordance with his father’s wish]. This is the significance of the expression, that ruled over all that he had.

Sforno on 24:5

אשר יצאת משם, a place which you had despised. If I now swear to you to take a wife from there and the girl I choose refuses to come here, my betrothing her to your son will obligate him to fulfill his conjugal duties including living with her as husband and wife. If he refuses to join her there he will have become guilty of betrayal of his bride. Shall I really bring him back there?

NO STOLLEN MOMENTS NEXT WEEK – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!